

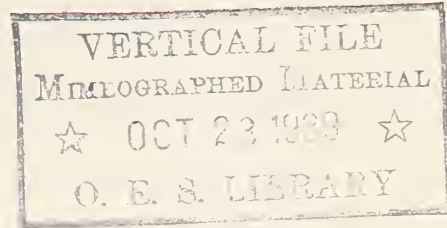
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CARE IN STORAGE KEEPS APPLE CROP

A thermometer in the home storage cellar may be worth many times its price by saving the apples there from early spoilage. Storage studies have shown that temperature is most important in the keeping of apples. Apples freeze at 29° F. or below and keep best at a temperature of 32° F. The exception to this rule is the Yellow Newtown or any variety susceptible to brown core or internal browning. A warmer temperature of from 35° to 38° F. helps to prevent this storage disease. A temperature of 32° F. cannot usually be obtained in home cellars throughout the storage season, but the nearer this is approached the better the apples will keep.

The sooner after picking the apple reaches cool storage temperature, the longer it is likely to keep. Delay between orchard and cool storage encourages soft rot and internal breakdown. Apples that were harvested ripe but not overripe, and handled gently so that they have no bruises and cuts, will keep best.

Slatted crates are better containers for storing apples than barrels, because they are convenient to handle and provide more ventilation for the fruit. To provide for circulation of air underneath, the crates should be set a foot or more above the floor. Circulation of air around the apples helps to prevent scald, which turns apples brown. Scientists believe that scald occurs

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when the gases which the apples themselves give off in storage, become too concentrated around them. Another means of preventing scald is to wrap the apples in special oiled paper that will absorb these gases, or pack them in shredded oiled paper.

Proper moisture in the air of the storage cellar is necessary to keep apples from shriveling or wilting. An earth floor that is kept damp will generally provide sufficient moisture. Where the floor is of concrete, a tub of water placed in the storage room will provide moisture.

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